

## Protecting Hoosiers from Secondhand Smoke

317.234.1787  
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Each year in the United States, an estimated 50,000 deaths are attributable to secondhand smoke breathed by nonsmokers. Of these deaths, 3,000 are due to lung cancer, 46,000 due to heart disease and approximately 430 to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) each year.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that smoke free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke in workplace. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure. Blue collar and service employees are less likely than white-collar indoor workers to be covered by smoke-free policies.

The Surgeon General has also concluded that workplace smoking restrictions lead to less smoking among covered workers.

Indiana is making progress but is lagging behind the rest of the U.S. As of December 2007, 35 communities have passed local smoke free air policies, however 26 of these laws are strong public health policy that protect approximately 28 percent of Hoosiers from exposure to secondhand smoke.

Across the U.S., there are currently over 2,000 municipalities with local laws in effect that restrict where smoking is allowed. These include some of the largest cities, such as New York City, Los Angeles, San Diego, Dallas, San Francisco, and Boston. Twenty-two states have state laws that require 100% smoke free workplaces, and/or restaurants, and/or bars protecting approximately 60% of the U.S. population from exposure to secondhand smoke.

Entire countries that are smoke free include Ireland, France, Hong Kong, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Malta, Uganda, Bhutan, Italy, Quebec, Canada, Scotland, Bermuda, and Spain.

### **Support for smoke free air laws is high among Hoosiers**

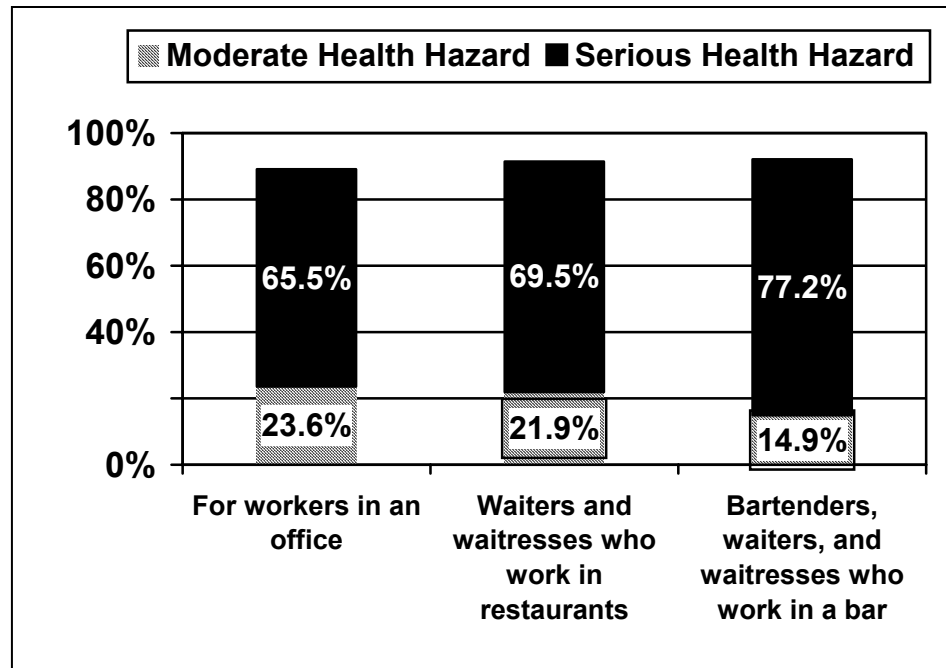
- In 2006, seven out of ten Hoosier adults reported an indoor work policy prohibits smoking in all work areas.
- Nine in ten Hoosiers (91%) feel smoking should not be allowed in indoor work areas. Hoosier adults, especially nonsmokers, support smoke free policies in public places.
- Eighty-four percent (84%) of Hoosiers are somewhat or very concerned about the health effects of secondhand smoke.
- Three out of four (74%) Hoosier households are smoke free.

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## Percent of Adults That Say Secondhand Smoke is a Moderate to Serious Health Hazard

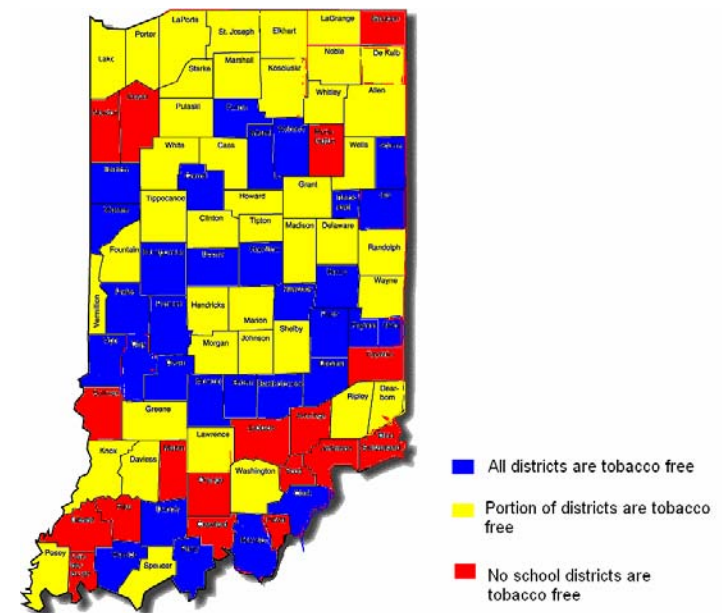


- A strong majority of Hoosier adults feel that exposure to secondhand smoke in various workplaces is a serious health hazard.
- More than 100 hospitals and health care facilities have a tobacco free campus policy throughout Indiana.

The U.S. Surgeon General's report emphasizes the impacts that secondhand smoke exposure has on children.

Indiana communities are working with local school districts to ensure tobacco use is not allowed on school campuses anywhere.

- Thirty-two (32) counties have all tobacco free schools districts providing more than 50% of our youth with protection from secondhand smoke at school.
- However, 18 counties do not have a tobacco free campus at any of the school districts in their counties.



Sources: 2006 Indiana Adult Tobacco Survey, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.